

The Oakford House  
near Alloway, Salem County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-127

HABS  
N.J.  
17 - Alloway  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABE  
N. J.

17- Allow

The Oakford House  
Alloway, Salem County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Frances House Acton

Date of Erection: 1736

Architect:

Builder: William Oakford

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick, red  
and blue mottle

Interior walls - plaster

Inside chimneys

Roof - <sup>gambrel</sup>hip, wood shingles

Historical Data:

This house was built in 1736 by William Oakford, the grandson of Wade Oakford one of the original settlers of the Fenwick Colony. The initials of the builder are on the east elevation, "W.M.O. 1736", standing for William and Mary Oakford. This was the accustomed practice in the Fenwick Colony. The initial of the husband was placed on the left and that of the wife on the right.

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This house is one of the few of its kind left in Salem County. The lower floor is one large room with two fireplaces. The upper story has three small bedrooms; a lean-to was originally attached to the house, but was torn down some years ago.

When the British army invaded Salem County in the Revolution, a number of refugees fled to this house to escape them. The dwelling was situated in a grove of trees, a part of the original forest. According to tradition these refugees buried their gold and treasure in the cellar of the house and in the woods. From this incident has come the story of the "Alloway Ghost", supposedly a continental soldier guarding the buried treasure of the refugees. Any attempt to dig in the cellar of the Oakford House has been foiled by the appearance of the ghost.

Bibliography:

Shourds, Thomas History of Fenwicks Colony Bridgeton, G. F. Nixon, 1876

Sickler, J.S. The Old Houses of Salem County Salem, Sunbeam Publishing Company, 1934

  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

Addendum to  
William Oakford House  
Telegraph and Greenwich Roads  
Alloway Vicinity  
Salem County  
New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240